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INDIA-PAKISTAN: India's problems in caring for a claimed four million refugees from East Pakistan are mounting.

One hundred thousand refugees entered at one point in West Bengal over the weekend, and an equal number is reportedly close behind. Cholera has taken the lives of about 160 refugees--mostly new arrivals--during the past three days. Medical supplies are inadequate, and health officials fear that the disease may reach severe epidemic proportions during the heavy monsoon rains that are expected in June and July. Indian officials are also disturbed by accounts of the continuing persecution of Hindus in East Pakistan and by reports that the Pakistani martial law authorities are destroying deeds to property owned by Hindus who have fled to India. A report reaching the US Embassy in Islamabad, meanwhile, indicates that the government has offered free land to any tribesman from West Pakistan who wishes to settle in the East wing. The land offered for settlement is almost certainly the former property of refugee Hindus.

The Indians continue to apply pressure for international action to relieve the refugee flow, and on 29 May Indian External Affairs Secretary Banerji told the US chargé in New Delhi that unless the international community acted "immediately," it would be difficult for his government to continue to follow a "correct policy." The Indian Government seems resigned, however, to accepting at least some of the refugees as more or less permanent guests and has reluctantly decided to transfer some 50,000 of them from West Bengal to Madhya Pradesh state in the interior.

Press reports over the weekend indicate that the Pakistani Government plans to establish 19 refugee reception camps in 11 border districts in East Pakistan to screen Bengalis who wish to return home. With reports of continued persecution in the East still circulating, however, it is unlikely that many refugees will take advantage of the facilities.

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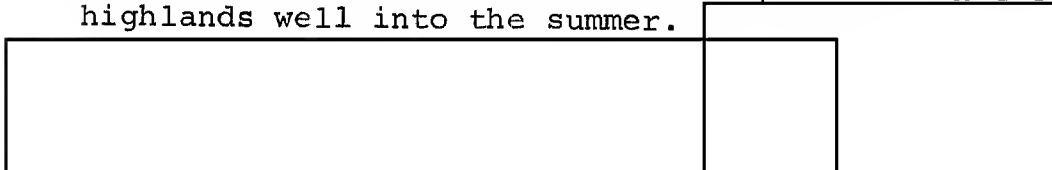
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SOUTH VIETNAM: Communist forces are carrying out another of their periodic sharp increases in military activity.

The action during the past few days has been generally similar to that occurring during enemy attacks in March and April, with the northern half of the country hardest hit and South Vietnamese forces bearing the brunt of the fighting. The several dozen Communist shellings were mostly light, but stiff enemy ground assaults caused damage in the central highlands, the A Shau Valley, and along the northern coast. Rockets struck Da Nang, and a large explosion in a government building rocked downtown Saigon.

South Vietnamese forces report killing several hundred enemy troops in especially hard-fought actions in the highlands and the coastal districts of Quang Nam Province, two key areas where the enemy has been active throughout the spring campaign. The latest enemy attacks put still greater pressure on the already hard-pressed pacification program in those areas.

Heightened Communist activity will probably continue for a few more days. Intelligence on enemy plans for this summer, however, is sparse. In recent years the enemy's spring campaign has been followed by a summer lull in the fighting during which the Communists prepared for action in the fall. This year, however, there are some signs that they may intend to maintain substantial pressure in the highlands well into the summer.



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JORDAN-FEDAYEEN: Incidents continued in northern Jordan yesterday as the latest round of fighting between the army and the fedayeen extended into its third day.

In Cairo, the Voice of Fatah has charged that King Husayn has personally been supervising army operations against the fedayeen in an attempt to liquidate the commando movement completely before he makes a trip to the US.

[REDACTED]

The US defense attaché reports that the local residents in areas of northern Jordan are agitating for the government to force the fedayeen out of their locales. Relations between the villagers and the fedayeen have deteriorated, and this has been the cause of some of the incidents of the last few days. The attaché further reports that some army officers are beginning to urge a final push against the fedayeen in northern Jordan and also a foray into Syria to attack the Palestinians' Yarmuk Brigade, which is composed of deserters from the Jordanian Army.

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NOTE

CHILE: The Allende administration is becoming increasingly concerned about the next harvest season. Although serious food shortages are not expected this year, only about 30 percent of the area normally planted to winter wheat has thus far been seeded. The Communist Party has advised Allende to slow the agrarian reform process, but the minister of agriculture is opposed to any reduction in the pace of expropriations. Allende's recent public criticism of illegal land seizures by peasants, however, was intended to restore some measure of confidence among Chilean landowners.

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